

Rally Finland: Estonian, Finnish and Czech Škoda crews pursue glory on fast gravel in Jyväskylä

- › **Estonians Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) target another strong result in the ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship**
- › **Local Škoda crews Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen, Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri, and Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen are among the leading contenders for WRC2 honours**
- › **Eleven Škoda crews are entered for Rally Finland, with nine competing for WRC2 points**

Mladá Boleslav, 30 July 2025 – Fresh from their WRC2 victory at Rally Estonia, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT) head to the next fast gravel round of the FIA World Rally Championship with high expectations. At Rally Finland (31 July–3 August 2025), the Estonian pairing will face strong opposition, including local Škoda crews Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen (TGS Worldwide), Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri (MS Munaretto), and Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (Toksport WRT).

The tactical battle for the WRC2 title continues: overall leader Oliver Solberg and current runner-up Yohan Rossel return to the competition after missing one event. Gus Greensmith, who currently sits third in the standings, has not nominated Rally Finland as one of his seven WRC2 points-scoring events. The Englishman, alongside Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson, will contest only the RC2 class in RaceSeven's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Meanwhile, Škoda driver Roberto Daprà (Delta Rally Team), currently fourth overall in WRC2, is skipping Rally Finland altogether.

Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo are looking to further improve their position in the championship standings. Following their WRC2 win at Rally Estonia, 25-year-old Virves is currently ranked eighth overall. "Winning on home ground was a huge relief for us after a difficult season so far. Knowing how well the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 performs on fast gravel stages, I see no reason why we shouldn't aim for another top result," says Virves, looking ahead to Rally Finland. Last year, the Estonian was in contention for a WRC2 podium finish before losing nearly four minutes on stage 16 due to an opening bonnet.

However, the Estonians are up against tough competition in Finland. The "Flying Finns" are fully focused on delivering a home victory. Among the leading contenders for a top WRC2 result are local Škoda crews Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen (TGS Worldwide), Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri (MS Munaretto), and Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (Toksport WRT), the 2022 WRC2 champions.

Experienced Czech driver Martin Prokop and co-driver Michal Ernst are taking a different approach. "My goal is simply to have fun on these beautiful and fast gravel roads," explains Martin Prokop. He will contest Rally Finland for the 15th time, this year driving a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 serviced by his family-run team. The 42-year-old continues to match much younger competitors, as demonstrated by his third-place finish in WRC2 at Rally Italia Sardegna.

The ninth round of the 2025 FIA World Rally Championship, Secto Rally Finland, comprises 20 special stages covering a total of 307.22 kilometres. Crews will tackle fast, smooth gravel roads with numerous jumps, earning the event its nickname: the "Finnish Grand Prix on Gravel." Competition begins on Thursday evening (31 July) with a Super Special Stage on the streets of Harju, close to the rally centre in Jyväskylä. Friday's leg comprises nine stages totalling approximately 114 kilometres. Saturday features the longest day, with eight stages covering more than 142 kilometres. The rally will be decided on Sunday with two runs over the famous 23.98-kilometre 'Ouninpohja' stage.

Did you know...

...at the last three editions of Rally Finland, WRC2 category has been won by Škoda crews?

...the rally was first held in 1951 as 'Jyväskylän Suurajot', meaning 'The Great Race of Jyväskylä'?

...from 1959 to 1996, the event was known as the 'Rally of the Thousand Lakes' before being renamed Rally Finland?

...the rally was part of the inaugural World Rally Championship season in 1973?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 8 of 14 events)

- 1 Oliver Solberg (SWE), Toyota 85 points
- 2 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 82 points
- 3 Gus Greensmith (GBR), Škoda, 57 points**
- 4 Roberto Dapra (ITA), Škoda, 49 points**

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 8 of 14 events)

- 1 PH Sport, Citroën, 163 points
- 2 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 89 points**
- 3 Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT NG, Toyota, 89 points
- 4 Sarrazin Motorsport-Iron Lynx, Citroën, 64 points

2025 FIA World Rally Championship

Rally Monte-Carlo	22-26 January
Rally Sweden	12-16 February
Safari Rally Kenya	20-23 March
Rally Islas Canarias (ESP)	24-27 April
Rally de Portugal	15-18 May
Rally Italia Sardegna	5-8 June
Acropolis Rally Greece	26-29 June
Rally Estonia	17-20 July
Rally Finland	31 July-3 August
Rally del Paraguay	28-31 August
Rally Chile Bio Bío	11-14 September
Central European Rally (CZE/AUT/DEU)	16-19 October
Rally Japan	6-9 November
Rally Saudi Arabia	26-29 November

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Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Fresh from their WRC2 win on home soil, Estonians Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Toksport WRT) are aiming for more big points.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Mikko Heikkilä and Kristian Temonen (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, TGS Worldwide), Finnish rally champions in 2022, are hoping to make the most of their home advantage.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Lauri Joona, together with fellow Finn Samu Vaaleri in the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 (MS Munaretto), currently holds tenth place in the WRC2 standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Three years ago, Emil Lindholm and Reeta Hämäläinen (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Toksport WRT) took WRC2 victory at Rally Finland on their way to the 2022 title.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Still going strong: The experienced Czech pairing Martin Prokop and Michal Ernst (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) remain capable of delivering strong results.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Briton Gus Greensmith and Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, RaceSeven) are not competing for WRC2 points, but are targeting a top result in the RC2 class.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title four times in a row from 2020 to 2023. In 2024, the WRC2 title fight was not decided until the season finale. Škoda driver Oliver Solberg of team Toksport WRT finished second overall.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

Škoda Auto

- › is successfully pursuing its Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030
- › aims to be among the three best-selling brands in Europe by 2030, with attractive offers in entry-level segments and additional electric vehicles
- › is unlocking growth potential in key markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the wider ASEAN region
- › currently offers 12 passenger-car series: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq
- › delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2024
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group – one of the world's most successful car manufacturers – for over 30 years
- › belongs to the Brand Group CORE, the Volkswagen Group's alliance of volume brands established to drive joint growth and boost overall efficiency
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions, including for other Group brands
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic and, largely through Group partnerships, has manufacturing capacities in China, Slovakia and India, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine with local partners
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and operates in almost 100 markets